

## Message Text

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72

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ISO-00 IO-13 NIC-01 SR-02 ORM-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /148 W  
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R 181341Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 723

INFO AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

UNCLAS STOCKHOLM 3307

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EAID, SW, VN

SUBJECT: SWEDISH AID TO NORTH VIETNAM

REF: STOCKHOLM 736

1. IN SMALL CEREMONY IN SWEDISH PARLIAMENT BUILDING SEPTEMBER 14, FORMER PRIME MINISTER TAGE ERLANDER, ACTING AS CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR BACH MAI, PRESENTED SKR 20.5 MILLION (ABOUT US \$4.9 MILLION AT CURRENT EXCHANGE RATE) TO NORTH VIETNAM'S NEW AMBASSADOR, PAHM BANG, FOR RECONSTRUCTION OF BACH MAI HOSPITAL IN HANOI. NEWSPAPER PHOTO OF EVENT SHOWED SMILING FOREIGN MINISTER KRISTER WICKMAN LOOKING ON.

2. IN STATE RELEASED BY MFA ON THE OCCASION, WICKMAN SOUNDED FAMILIAR THEMES OF RIGHT OF SMALL NATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE, CONTINUING RECALCITRANCE OF SOUTH VIETNAM, AND SOLIDARITY OF SWEDISH WITH VIETNAMESE PEOPLE. QUOTE IN PART: THE STRUGGLE OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE FOR INDEPENDENCE HAS BEEN OF IMMENSE  
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IMPORTANCE TO ALL PEOPLES. WHEN WE IN SWEDEN GIVE THE VIETNAMESE OUR SUPPORT, WE SIMULTANEOUSLY LAY DOWN A PRINCIPLE WHICH IS OF

VITAL IMPORTANCE ALSO FOR OUR COUNTRY--THAT IS, RESPECT OF THE RIGHT OF SMALL NATIONS TO INDEPENDENCE. THAT SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE-- SUCH INDEPENDENCE IS NOT YET BEING RESPECTED. THE PARIS AGREEMENT MUST BE FOLLOWED IN SOUTH VIETNAM. WHAT IS OF IMMEDIATE IMPORTANCE FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION IS THAT THE NUMEROUS POLITICAL PRISONERS BE RELEASED AND THE MANY REFUGEES BE ALLOWED TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. . . BACH MAI STANDS OUT AS A SYMBOL NOT ONLY FOR THE SUFFERING OF THE VIETNAMESE PEOPLE BUT ALSO FOR THEIR WILL TO SURVIVE, TO CREATE A JUST SOCIETY. THE CONTRIBUTION WE ARE NOW MAKING FOR THE HOSPITAL'S RECONSTRUCTION IS AN EXPRESSION OF THE SWEDISH PEOPLE'S SOLIDARITY WITH THE PEOPLE OF VIETNAM. UNQUOTE. FULL TEXT OF STATEMENT POUCHED TO EUR/NE.

3. OLOFSSON, CHIEF OF SECTION FOR ASIA AND LATIN AMERICA IN MFA FOREIGN AID SECRETARIAT, TOLD ECONOMIC OFFICER THAT ALTHOUGH BACH MAI CAMPAIGN OFFICIALLY CLOSED FEBRUARY 28 WITH SKR 5.8 MILLION COLLECTED, AS REPORTED REFTEL, CONFEDERATION OF TRADE UNIONS (LO) CONTINUED TO COLLECT FUNDS THROUGH JUNE. HE SAID THAT TOTAL AMOUNT COLLECTED WAS SKR 10.5 MILLION AND GOS CONTRIBUTED MATCHING FUND OF SKR 10 MILLION. OLOFSSON CLAIMED SUMMER DOLDRUMS HAD DELAYED PRESENTATION UNTIL NOW.

4. COMMENT: EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT TIMING OF PRESENTATION ON SEPTEMBER 14 NOT UNRELATED TO SEPTEMBER 16 ELECTIONS. IT ALSO ASSUMES THAT ADDITIONAL SKR 5 MILLION "COLLECTED" AFTER CLOSING OF BACH MAI CAMPAIGN, WHICH WAS PUSHED HARD BY GOS, REPRESENTS FOR MOST PART "CONTRIBUTIONS" FROM ORGANIZATIONS CONTROLLED BY SOCIAL DEMOCRATS.  
OLSEN

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## Message Attributes

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